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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q71182

Kenji SHIMIZU, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/617,822

Group Art Unit: 2651

Confirmation No.: 5227

Examiner: RICKMAN, Holly C.

Filed: July 14, 2003

For: MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME,
AND MAGNETIC RECORDING AND REPRODUCTION APPARTUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/617,822

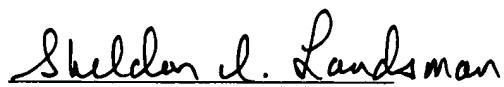
concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication (First Office Action) from the Patent Office of the People's Republic of China in a counterpart application citing the listed CN 1303090A, together with an English-language version of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the Patent Office of the People's Republic of China. In addition, the listed U.S. Patent 6,686,070 and U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0062953 correspond to the listed CN 1303090A.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 16, 2005



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO		Complete if Known	
		MAR 16 2005	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	10/617,822
(use as many sheets as necessary)		Confirmation Number	5227
		Filing Date	July 14, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Kenji SHIMIZU
		Art Unit	2651
		Examiner Name	RICKMAN, Holly C.
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	
		Q71182	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.